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Message Text

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21
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 AID-05 NSC-05

SS-15 CEA-01 (ISO) W
---------- 117127
R 181920Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 979
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0388

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GY
SUBJECT: SPRING SUGAR PRODUCTION NOW SEEMS LIKELY TO FALL
FAR SHORT OF 143,000 LT OJMRKZE

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 280 (B) GEORGETOWN 257

1. ALTHOUGH SUGAR PRODUCERS DECLINE TO COMMENT ON PROBABILITY OF PRODUCTION SHORTFALL DUE TO STRIKE, EMBASSY ESTIMATE BASED ON PRODUCTION THROUGH WEEK OF MARCH 7, SHOWS SPRING PRODUCTION LEVEL OF 134,000 LONG TONS ASSUMING IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON. THIS ALSO ASSUMS STRIKE WILL BE SETTLED BY END OF WEEK (3/21) AND FULL PRODUCTION BEGINS MARCH 24 AT AVERAGE WEEKLY LEVELS EQUAL TO CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR. SINCE MARCH AND APRIL ARE PEAK PRODUCTION MONTHS, EACH WEEK OF STRIKE DECREASES OUTPUT BY 9,000 TO 10,000 LT'S.

2. MORE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN TERMS OF EXPORT EARNINGS IS TIMING OF PRODUCTION. SOME SUGAR CONTRACTS MADE EARLY THIS YEAR AND IN
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LATE 1974 AT LUCRATIVE PRICES MAY NOT RPT NOT BE MET IF STRIKE

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CONTINUES OR WORK SLOWDOWN REDUCES WEEKLY OUTPUT BELOW 1,000 LT
LEVEL. TOTAL PRODUCTION AS OF MARCH 7, WAS 39,000 LT'S
HARDLY ENOUGH TO SUPPLY US, UK, AND WORLD MARKET PURCHASERS.
SINCE 18,000 LT'S ALREADY SHIPPED TO US AND 3,500 WAS DESTINED
FOR DELIVERY THIS WEEK, SOME CONTRACTS WITH OTHER BUYERS MAY BE IN
DEFAULT WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. STOCK CARRYOVER FROM 1974
CROP NOT RPT NOT ENOUGH TO WEATHER EXTENDED STRIKE.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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